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to make a...a way to make a serious point. But let me build on that in an historical sense. Accidental shootings of adults by adults, because of the increased accessibility of handguns, was the point that Senator Wesely was mainly making. And that's absolutely true. And what's sad about this situation is that we seem to be going into another historical cycle. You know there came a point in our history when we banned concealed weapons, and there were probably reasons for that. And let me go back, and the only thing I could find on short notice was a piece about the great Platte River Road, that may suggest why our ancestors thought it was a good idea to cut down on the availability of guns. But this is about the immigrants who went across Nebraska and the problems they had. I just want to read one page to you, because I think it illustrates something that we're forgetting again today. The great Platte River Road was fraught with perils, but not all were the kind that the immigrants anticipated. Indians and wild animals were aplenty but, as it often turned out, if left alone they were unobtrusive. The great dangers were disease and accident, with death always waiting. Except for sanitary precautions, which then were little known or understood, disease was perhaps unavoidable. But accidents were a built-in, do-it-yourself hazard. The safety record of the great migration was terrible. Trail accidents could be classified in descending order of magnitude as shootings, drownings, crushing by wagon wheels, and injuries resulting from handling domestic animals, these were the four big causes of maimings and killings. All other discoverable causes combined, such as sharp instruments, falling objects, rattle snakes, buffalo hunts, did not equal one of these four major causes. The immigrants were walking arsenals, armed to the teeth with rifles, shotguns and revolvers, supposedly used to hunt buffalo and defend themselves from Indians. More often what they managed to do was blast, wound, or annihilate themselves instead and in alarming numbers. Firearms did not have the safety features that exist today. (inaudible) warned, keep your gun in good order, but never have caps in them unless you are going to shoot. When you come in from the hunt, be sure to take your cap off before you put your gun in the wagon. Flint locks are always dangerous and should never be taken along. Many immigrants were strangers to their deadly weapons and all underwent the fatigue which impairs judgment. A random sampling of the journals turns up at least